

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks made herein. Claim 1-3, 6, 10-14 and 17 are pending. Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-3, 10-14 and 17 are allowed.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto. (U.S. Patent No. 6,831,705 B2) in view of Izumiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,561). Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice, accordingly the rejection is now moot.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. Entry of this amendment and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Piotrowski
Registration No. 42,079

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/Thomas J. Onka/
By: Thomas J. Onka
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,053

Mail all correspondence to:
Dan Piotrowski, Registration No. 42,079
US PHILIPS CORPORATION
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001
Phone: (914) 333-9624
Fax: (914) 332-0615